

Nevada Indian Commission
5500 Snyder Avenue, Building #3, Carson City, NV
Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meeting
December 17, 2013

Present: Sherry Ely-Mendes, Children's Cabinet and Chairperson, Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee; Mike Tinsley, Child Care Development Fund, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada; Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Lori Lotts, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Indian Commission; Cheryl Ewing, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Lori Schoen, Nevada Early Intervention Services; Fredina Drye-Romero, Nevada Department of Education; Stephanie Wyatt, Nevada Early Intervention Services; Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education; Margo Chapel, Head Start

- I. Invocation
 - a. The invocation was given by Sherry L. Rupert.
- II. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Sherry E. called the meeting to order at 1:11pm.
- III. Initial Public Comment
 - a. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.
- IV. For Possible Action: Approval of October 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Action was not taken as no quorum was present. The item was moved to the next meeting.
- V. For Possible Action: Approval of November 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Action was not taken as no quorum was present. The item was moved to the next meeting.
- VI. For Possible Action: Update on Editing of Tribal Early Childhood Public Awareness Video
 - a. Sherry R. reported that editing was originally scheduled for the first week of December however the machine for editing needed parts. Therefore editing was rescheduled for January 21, 2014. Sherry informed KNPB that this video must be completed for a March roll out.
- VII. For Possible Action: Update on Tribal Child Care Licensing Template
 - a. Sherry E. reported that this project is getting much bigger than what it started out to be, so the outline may grow. Sherry E. was contacted by Patty Oya with the State childcare office, as she oversees the Nevada Silver State Stars program.

Patty had asked Sherry E. for information regarding how childcare in Indian country is licensed or the CCDF requirements. Sherry E. sent Patty the information that she had available; she also called Mike Tinsley to get more information to send to Patty. Sherry E. also has an online version of the orange book. Patty is trying to change language in the QRIS to include tribes. Sherry E. stated that she also sent Patty a copy of the outline/template that TECAC is working on and Patty is going to review it with another lady that she works with to see if the basic standards meet the mark as far as a licensing entity would be looking at. The Region 9 contact, Kurt is very excited about the process and wants to be able to give feedback on the template.

Sherry R. stated that the template workgroup will be meeting on January 8, 2014, at 1:30 pm, at the Nevada Indian Commission.

VIII. For Possible Action: Continued Planning for the 2014 Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC) Track

- a. Sherry R. reported that the TECAC track has been broken down into four different sessions:
 - i. Positive Interaction and Guidance – Theresa has forwarded her description to Sherry R. Sherry R. read the description, “The Washoe Tribe Head Start program has been implementing Positive Behavior Support techniques and materials beginning with the 2010-11 school year. We have classrooms that are recognized as model demonstration sites. We are participants in NvTACSEI, the statewide initiative to implement Positive Behavior Support in early childhood settings. Benefits: *Data (ASQ-SE, BIR) has shown both reduction of challenging behavior and positive changes in children’s social emotional development over the course of a school year. *Teaching staff feel more competent in their ability to address challenging behavior and assist children in acquiring social emotional skills needed for school success. *Families can be supported in assisting their child’s social emotional development.
This presentation will be a brief overview of the materials and techniques that can be implemented by teaching staff, the data we have collected to validate effectiveness, and the resources available to programs.”
 - ii. Family & Community Relationships – Sherry R. has contacted Lynn Manning from WCSD, but has not yet heard back from her.
 - iii. Health, Safety & Nutrition – Sherry R. reported that Theresa contacted Landon Wiggins from IHS and that he is interested in providing a health and safety presentation at the summit. Theresa has provided Sherry R.

with his contact information along with the Model Health and Safety code that can be used to help select what TECAC would like Landon to present on. Sherry R. briefly reviewed the code document that Theresa attached is it is quite lengthy. TECAC will need to decide what exactly we would want Landon to speak about.

Sherry R. asked what TECAC wants to have the outcome of this series be: diabetes, nutrition. Sherry R. stated that Lori L. had forwarded her an article from Indian Country Today about Childhood Diabetes. Lori L. went on to say that the article was about addiction and how children and young adults are abusing their insulin to eat whatever they want. Sherry R. asked if TECAC wanted this session to deal with the obesity issue of plaguing children today. Sherry E. thought that this track was to be more directed toward special needs and access to program. Sherry R. stated that the tracks were picked based on the survey taken by tribal communities and what they wanted training on.

Mike stated that he has a staff member that is teaching “I am moving, I am learning” under the Let’s Move initiative from ITCN; it is a program on nutrition and activity.

Dina added that in the past Dr. Carolee Dodge-Francis from UNLV has come to do a presentation on Diabetes Education in Tribal Schools (DETS). Dr. Dodge-Francis is already doing a presentation at the language symposium and would probably be willing to come up for the Summit. Dina mentioned that Dr. Dodge-Francis is currently working on converting the DETS curriculum to the Common Core Standards. There is also a new book from Eagle Books, “Hummingbird Squash” that Dr. Dodge-Francis will have available for participants. Sherry R. will contact Dr. Carolee Dodge-Francis.

Lori S. also added that NEIS has two registered dieticians that do presentations in the community and work with families and would probably be willing to do a presentation.

- iv. Leadership & Professional Development – Sherry R. stated that Sherry E. forwarded her Robin Kincaid’s information about Special Education for Native American Parents. Sherry E. stated that she doesn’t have anything from Cindy Johnson yet. Sherry R. asked if the group would mind the switch from Leadership to the Special Education if TECAC does not hear from Nevada Registry. Sherry E. stated that she did not know much about

the course from Robin. Lori S. said that she thought it might be more advocacy for parents.

Sherry E. asked Lori S. if NEIS had anything that can be added to the Family and Community Relationship session. Lori S. stated that NEIS can certainly discuss the need for building those partnerships in the community between early intervention and tribal entities. NEIS has really been working the last couple of years to strengthen this relationship, since NEIS is home-based and goes to the home to work with families. Sherry E. stated that NEIS was contemplating doing an MOU with Stride to make sure they were aware and able to access your services on a one-on-one individual tribal basis. Sherry E. stated that one of the big challenges is how to talk to families about getting the needed services without turning them off or making them feel as though their child is being labeled. Sherry E. also added that maybe the session be tweaked to show how childcare providers can support parents in accessing that information and resources. The frontline step is going to be the childcare providers, if not the families themselves, therefore the early intervention piece could be guided toward the providers to teach how to frame the questions and/or what are some of the things you can do to pre-assess the child. Lori S. added that discussion need to happen about adding community play groups in a community setting (i.e. community center, health center, etc.) to build that foundation and relationship, so that families will come. Typically NEIS doesn't serve children until they are eligible, but if the program needs to be changed to fit that need, NEIS has talked about offering a play group to do those screenings to help build those relationships to help identify children. Sherry E. mentioned that if working holistically with families and childcare providers is the goal there should be some kind of framework in place to guide the childcare workers. The audience for this session will be the childcare providers, so providing them with information on informal assessment, observation, engaging parents in conversation regarding their child and the ASQ process, might be some items to address for them. Lori S. agreed and stated that a session on the ASQ process and how it works and how to engage parents might be the way to go. The ASQ goes from ages 3 to 6, and the training could be getting to early childhood teachers on the path to knowing how to getting started and engaging families. Sherry R. asked Lori S. to write up a description for this session. Lori S. said that she would have this done by the end of the week and email to Sherry R. and Sherry E.

IX. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- a. Lori S. from NEIS reported that Veronica Gephardt had invited her to RSIC to present the MOU Health program last week.
- b. Sherry E. reported that the Children's Cabinet is still serving the neediest of the needy. Budgets will be out at the beginning of the year and a handful of folks might come off the waitlist. Coaches are working on QIS. The Children's Cabinet is also revising its childcare health consultants program. Sherry E. can give an update next meeting on health consultants, trainings and providers. Also, if any families are in need in the Reno/Sparks area, the Children's Cabinet will be having a gift give away of the overflow of gifts for kids on December 23rd and 24th, 8:00 – 5:00 pm.
- c. Fredina Drye-Romero from the NDE reported that she has Anna Severens, from Early Childhood EPP with her to report on the many happenings at the NDE. Anna stated that Race to the Top will be announced this week. There was an Executive Order creating a division of Early Learning and Development within NDE. The Head Start Collaboration Office is relocating to Las Vegas. Lastly there will be an Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting that will discuss all these matter and more on February 4, 2014, 9:30 – 12:30pm.

X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a. All action items will be moved to the next meeting. Other suggestions for agenda items included a report on the editing of the early childhood education video and an update on the childcare licensing template.
- b. Any additional items can be sent to Sherry R.

XI. Scheduling and Location of Next Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meeting

- a. The next meeting was scheduled for January 21, 2014 from 1-3pm at the Nevada Indian Commission.

XII. Final Public Comments

- a. Margo Chapel thanked everyone for their hard work with Head Start. She is very proud and privileged to have worked with all of you. Sherry R. thanked Margo for her support and guidance, and she wished Margo all the best. Sherry E. expressed sadness to see Margo go and thanked her for all her hard work and dedication. Lori S. stated that she was very sad to see Margo leave and thanked her for her hard work. Fredina thanked Margo for her dedication and hard work.

XIII. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.